

MINUTES

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: August 25, 2006

TIME: 8:45 a.m.

PLACE: Room 437

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman McKenzie, Senators Darrington, Geddes, Davis, Stegner, Little, Stennett, Malepeai

MEMBERS ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

MINUTES: The meeting was called to order by **Chairman Burtenshaw** at 8:45 a.m.

The Chairman requested the secretary to call the roll. There was one member absent at the time of the roll call; however, the member entered the meeting a few minutes later.

Chairman Burtenshaw said the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a confirmation hearing for **Mark G. Ricks, appointed as Lieutenant Governor**. The Chairman then invited Mr. Ricks to speak to the committee.

Lieutenant Governor Ricks: **Mr. Ricks** stated that his political career was started by his interest of being a precinct committeeman, followed by his responsibilities connected with the Teton Dam flood recovery efforts. He stated that he was a farmer by vocation and occupation, retiring a few years ago and served in the Senate for 16 years, retiring in 1994. Mr. Ricks introduced his wife, stating that they were married in 1944, and that she has always supported him in his endeavors.

Senator Davis said that Mr. Ricks is a former chairman of the State Affairs Committee and former majority leader of the Senate, as well as chairman of the (former) Western Legislative Conference, representing 14 Western states and has also served nationally for that organization.

Senator Stegner attended a conference in Alberta this summer and stated that Mr. Ricks was in attendance there, representing Idaho. He felt that with Mr. Ricks' grace and intelligence, it added distinction to Idaho.

Senator Little asked Mr. Ricks what counsel would he give to the committee, having been a former member. **Mr. Ricks** said that the challenges are different each year and he feels the Senators do a good job of meeting those challenges. One suggestion was that consideration must be given to the economy of the state.

Chairman Burtenshaw said that he has worked with Mr. Ricks involving their religious dealings and that Mr. Ricks has been president of the Idaho Falls Temple for three years. The Chairman stated that Mr. Ricks' integrity is above reproach and that he is polite and cordial to everyone.

Motion: **Senator Geddes** moved that the committee support the confirmation of

Lieutenant Governor Mark G. Ricks. The motion was seconded by **Senator Davis**. **Chairman Burtenshaw** asked for unanimous consent of the appointment.

Senator Stennett stated that the practice of the State Affairs Committee has been to vote on confirmations the following day.

Senator Davis said that on most occasions, the practice has been to vote the following day, but as a session nears its end, it is not an uncommon practice to address an appointment on the same day. Not anticipating to be here for another day, Senator Davis urged the committee to go forward with the motion.

Senator Darrington gave a brief history of how confirmation hearings have been conducted. At one time, voting took place on the day of the hearing with the appointee in the room. He said that he started the practice many years ago of delaying the voting and that other chairmen have since adopted that practice. Senator Darrington said the decision as to when the voting is conducted is at the call of the Chair.

Chairman Burtenshaw said there would be a roll call vote.

Vote: Abstaining from the first roll call were Senators Malepeai and Stennett, with all other Senators voting aye. The second roll call indicated the vote was unanimous.

Sponsor: **Senator Geddes** said that with the Chairman's approval, he would like to be the sponsor for Mr. Ricks, as well as asking **Chairman Burtenshaw** to assist him. The Chairman agreed to the request.

Other remarks: **Senator Geddes** said that during the interim, there have been some issues, two of which are to settle and agree on the renovation plans and floor plan of the Capitol. Another committee has been meeting regarding the Court House Building to accommodate the legislative session in two years. It is apparent that if the legislative session in 2007 is not adjourned and finished by April 1, that all of those plans will have to be delayed, which will very likely put a 30 month plan of renovation to a longer time period. With construction costs and a tight schedule, that would only cost more money for the citizens of the state of Idaho. Senator Geddes said that since this is a leadership committee, and there is representation of both the minority and majority caucus, he made a plea that the individual caucuses begin their work now to prepare for the 2007 legislative session. The bill drafters are anxious to start drafting legislation and the sooner they can start, the sooner the session can be up and running. Senator Geddes stated that it is critical to stay on schedule.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the committee, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Senator Don Burtenshaw
Chairman

Juanita Budell
Secretary